

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 GEORGE 00631 291602Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EUR-12 /089 W
-----300303Z 027407 /72-62

R 291410Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4405
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0631

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CG, GY
SUBJECT: GUYANA FONMIN'S VIEWS ON ZAIRE INVASION

REF: BLACKEN/TUMMINIA TELCON

SUMMARY: GOG IS CONCERNED OVER THE AGGRESSION IN ZAIRE AND ITS IMPLICATIONS FOR THE STRUGGLE AGAINST APARTHEID AS WELL AS THE PRECEDENT OF PERMITTING SUCCESSFUL AGGRESSION FROM OUTSIDE. FONMIN WILLS IS RECOMMENDING TO GOG CABINET THAT IT TAKE THE POSITION THAT GUYANA WILL SUPPORT NIGERIAN EFFORTS TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM AND IF THOSE EFFORTS FAIL, THAT THE OAU OR THE UN SHOULD BE THE APPROPRIATE EXTERNAL BODY FOR DEALING WITH THE AGGRESSION. HE BELIEVES GOG SHOULD CONDEMN EXTERNAL AGGRESSION AND RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF A STATE TO DEFEND ITSELF, USING OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE IF NECESSARY. END SUMMARY.

1. FONMIN WILLS CALLED ME DURING MORNING OF MARCH 28
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 GEORGE 00631 291602Z

TO INVITE ME TO HIS OFFICE THAT AFTERNOON FOR DISCUSSION OF SITUATION IN ZAIRE. HE SAID THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS DURING CABINET MEETING MARCH 29 CONCERNING ATTITUDE GUYANA SHOULD ADOPT AND WANTED U.S. VIEWS. SUBSEQUENTLY DURING DISCUSSION WITH HIM, I DREW ON STATEMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS CONTAINED IN USIS WIRELESS FILE, INDICATING THAT THE U.S. WAS OFFERING ENCOURAGEMENT

TO THE NIGERIAN EFFORTS AND BELIEVED THAT THE SOLUTION MUST BE FOUND AMONG THE AFRICANS.

2. WILLS EXPRESSED OPINION THAT THE AGGRESSION IN ZAIRE WAS PART OF A CUBAN/SOVIET ATTEMPT TO INCREASE THEIR INFLUENCE IN AFRICA. HE BELIEVES THAT THEY INTEND FOR LEFTIST GOVERNMENTS TO CONTROL ALL OF THE RICH SOUTHERN HALF OF AFRICA, FIRST OBTAINING CONTROL OF THE BELT ACROSS THE MIDDLE OF THE CONTINENT. HE ALSO SPECULATED THAT IF THEY SUCCEEDED IN GAINING CONTROL OF SHABA PROVINCE, A THREAT WOULD THEN BE POINTED AT ZAMBIA'S COPPER BELT.

3. WILLS COMMENTED THAT BECAUSE OF DIVERGENCIES OF OPINION AMONG AFRICAN STATES, IT WAS DIFFICULT TO GET THE OAU INVOLVED AND THAT SOME RADICAL GOVERNMENTS WOULD TRY TO GET THE NACCFM TO TAKE A POSITION ON THE MATTER. WILLS EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT THE INVASION OF ZAIRE WOULD WEAKEN AFRICAN SOLIDARITY AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA AND RHODESIA.

4. ACCORDING TO WILLS, WITHIN THE GOG AND THE LEADERSHIP OF THE PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) OPINIONS APPEARED TO BE DIVIDED. SOME ON THE CONSERVATIVE SIDE OF THE GOVERNMENT ARGUED THAT THE U.S. SHOULD SEND FORCES INTO ZAIRE AND THWART THE OBVIOUS CUBAN/SOVIET INITIATIVE AND THUS UNDERCUT THE INFLUENCE AND PRESTIGE THE CUBANS AND SOVIETS HAD GAINED AS A RESULT OF THEIR VICTORY IN ANGOLA. THE RADICALS, HOWEVER, FAVORED THE "CUBAN" INITIATIVE. WILLS SAID HE RECOGNIZED THE RISKS FOR THE U.S. IN ANY ACTIVE INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIGHTING AND FELT THE U.S. SHOULD NOT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 GEORGE 00631 291602Z

BECOME INVOLVED IN THE FIGHTING. HE COMMENTED THAT GUYANA HAD TO CONDEMN ON PRINCIPAL ANY EFFORTS BY EXTERNAL FORCES TO TAKE OVER PART OF A SOVEREIGN NATION BECAUSE GUYANA TOO COULD BE A TARGET OF SUCH ACTION

5. TOWARD THE END OF OUR DISCUSSION, WILLS SAID THAT HE WOULD RECOMMEND TO THE CABINET THAT GUYANA SHOULD:

- A. TAKE THE POSITION THAT THE NACCFM SHOULD NOT TAKE A POSITION BUT SHOULD LEAVE THE MATTER TO THE OAU AND/OR THE UN;
- B. SUPPORT THE NIGERIANS IN THEIR EFFORTS;
- C. RECOGNIZE THE RIGHT OF ANY STATE UNDER ATTACK TO SEEK AID FROM WHATEVER SOURCE IT NEEDS TO SURVIVE; AND
- D. CONDEMN EXTERNAL AGGRESSION.

6. COMMENT: WILLS APPEARS DEEPLY CONCERNED ABOUT THE EVENTS IN ZAIRE AND THE ATTEMPT FROM OUTSIDE TO TAKE OVER A PART OF A SOVEREIGN NATION BECAUSE OF THE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH ACTION FOR GUYANA. HE ALSO IS

TROUBLED OVER THE FACT THAT AFRICAN UNITY WOULD BE
DISRUPTED AND PRESSURE MIGHT BE DIVERTED FROM SOUTH
AFRICA AND RHODESIA.
BLACKEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SECESSION, INVASIONS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GEORGE00631
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770108-0407
Format: TEL
From: GEORGETOWN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770312/aaaaakez.tel
Line Count: 120
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 08b101b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2968194
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GUYANA FONMIN'S VIEWS ON ZAIRE INVASION
TAGS: PFOR, CG, GY
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/08b101b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009